

## REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-8, 15-21, 23-25, 27 and 28. Applicant submits a request for continued examination under 37 CFR § 1.114 with this accompanying Amendment. With entry of the Amendment, Applicant amends claims 9, 10, 12-14, 22 and 26. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-14, 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wachi et al. (U.S. Re 37,367 E). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

One embodiment of the present invention is directed to an extension board installed in a tone generator. The extension board provides, for example, expanded tone colors that differ from the pre-set tone colors in the tone generator and stores pattern information representing a prescribed sound pattern (e.g., arpeggio). The extension board can reproduce musical tone signals of the prescribed sound pattern having the expanded tone color(s) in response to the performance information supplied from the tone generator.

Wachi is directed to a computerized music system in which musical tones are generated based on performance information. It discloses optional sound source board 41 and DSP board 42 which can be installed in the musical tone generation apparatus (see, e.g., col. 8, lines 35-58; Fig. 2). However, the waveform memory 25 of the sound source board 41 merely stores waveform data with regard to the basic tone colors while the RAM 24 of the DSP board 42 functions as a work memory for arithmetic calculations (see, e.g., col. 7, lines 57-62). Thus, Wachi does not disclose “a storage device for storing pattern information representing a sound pattern” as recited in claim 9. Nor does Wachi disclose “a reproducing device for reproducing musical tone signals of the prescribed sound pattern in accordance with the pattern information stored in the storage device in response to the performance information supplied from the tone generator, the reproduced musical tone signals having an extended musical element”.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 and its dependent claims 10-14 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Wachi. Claims 22 and 26 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Wachi for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the foregoing, all of the pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that it would advance prosecution, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney.

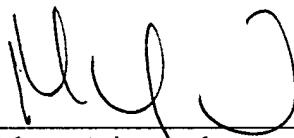
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032014800. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the claims:**

9. (Four Times Amended) An extension board installed in a tone generator for generating musical tone signals in response to performance information, comprising:

a storage device for storing pattern information representing a prescribed sound pattern;  
and

a reproducing device [for expanding performance information supplied from the tone generator with respect to a prescribed music element and] for reproducing musical tone signals of the prescribed sound pattern in accordance with the pattern information stored in the storage device in response to the performance information supplied from the tone generator, the reproduced musical tone signals having an extended music element, wherein the tone generator is independently incapable of generating musical tone signals having the extended music element.

10. (Four Times Amended) An extension board according to claim 9, wherein the [prescribed] extended music element is a tone color[, so that the reproducing device expands the performance information with respect to the tone color in such a way that the musical tone signals are reproduced using] and the reproduced musical tone signals have a specific tone color, which differs from an original tone color pre-installed in the tone generator.

12. (Three Times Amended) An extension board according to claim 10, wherein the reproducing device secures a plurality of [expanded] extended tone colors, each of which is selectively used for reproduction of musical tone signals of the prescribed sound pattern.

13. (Three Times Amended) An extension board according to claim 11, wherein the reproducing device secures a plurality of [expanded] extended tone colors, each of which is selectively used for reproduction of musical tone signals of the arpeggio pattern.

14. (Three Times Amended) An extension board according to claim 9, wherein the [prescribed] extended music element is an effect, so that the reproducing device sequentially reproduces musical tone signals having the [expanded] extended effect at timings being shifted from their original timings.

22. (Four Times Amended) A function expanding method comprising the steps of:

storing pattern information representing a prescribed sound pattern in an extension board;  
supplying performance information for generating musical tone signals from a tone generator to the extension board;

[expanding performance information supplied from the tone generator with respect to a prescribed music element;] and

reproducing musical tone signals of the prescribed sound pattern in accordance with the pattern information stored in said step of storing in response to the performance information supplied from said step of supplying, the reproduced musical tone signals having an extended music element, wherein the tone generator is independently incapable of generating musical tone signals having the extended music element.

26. (Four Times Amended) A machine-readable media storing programs and data that cause an extension board installed in a tone generator to perform a function expanding method comprising the steps of:

storing pattern information representing a prescribed sound pattern in an extension board;  
supplying performance information for generating musical tone signals from the tone generator to the extension board;

[expanding performance information supplied from the tone generator with respect to a prescribed music element;] and

reproducing musical tone signals of the prescribed sound pattern in accordance with the pattern information stored in said step of storing in response to the performance information supplied from said step of supplying, the reproduced musical tone signals having an extended music element, wherein the tone generator is independently incapable of generating musical tone signals having the extended music element.